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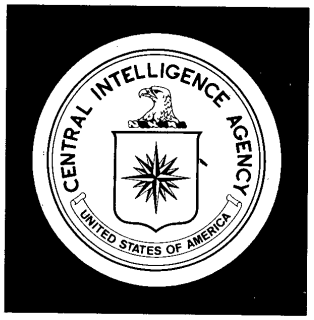


# *The President's Daily Brief*

*7 December 1972*

45

~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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exemption category 5B(1),(2),(3)
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## LATE ITEM

Philippines: The wife of President Marcos was stabbed by an unidentified assailant at a social gathering near Manila today. The extent of her injuries is not known, but preliminary reports suggest she is not in danger.



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# THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 December 1972

## PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The South Vietnamese drive to move north from Quang Tri City to the Cua Viet River is meeting stiffening resistance and is handicapped by continuing poor weather. *(Page 3)*

Government forces have captured Paksong on the Bolovens Plateau and are on the verge of retaking another important town in south Laos. Meanwhile, the leaders of the Lao Communist negotiating team will return to Vientiane this weekend in preparation for next Tuesday's session of the peace talks. *(Page 4)*

Efforts to negotiate an agreement between the Argentine Government and Juan Peron on the designation of candidates for the elections next March remain stalled. *(Page 5)*



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# WEST GERMANY

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## USSR-SOMALIA

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## SOUTH VIETNAM

The government drive to move north from Quang Tri City to the Cua Viet River is meeting stiffening resistance and is handicapped by continuing poor weather. There is increasing evidence that the North Vietnamese forces in this sector have been strengthened since their heavy losses last summer. One captured soldier claims that he was part of a 600-man infiltration group that was rushed into action almost immediately on arrival. His group, he says, joined the 48th Regiment, which replaced another regiment that had been badly battered in the Communists' front-line defenses.

In the western highlands, the combat performance of South Vietnamese troops has improved in recent weeks. Enemy forces nevertheless are still checking most of the limited government efforts to expand control outside the provincial capitals of Kontum and Pleiku.

*Where the situation permits, the Communists appear largely content with economy-of-force tactics as a means of demonstrating continued military strength and presence. This presumably was the purpose of the well-staged rocketing of Saigon's airport early yesterday. Although the results were marginal from a military standpoint, the Communists could stage additional attacks of this nature in an effort to dramatize their capability.*





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## LAOS

Government forces have captured Paksong on the Bolovens Plateau and are on the verge of retaking another important town in south Laos. Irregular units in the central panhandle report that only two platoons of Communist troops remain in Muong Phalane, which has been in enemy hands since May of last year. The North Vietnamese continue to put up stiff resistance, however, and must be driven from each bunker. Elements of an enemy regiment are also resisting government moves to secure villages in the surrounding area.

* * *

The leaders of the Lao Communist negotiating team who went to their headquarters at Sam Neua via Hanoi last week will return to Vientiane this Sunday, according to Pathet Lao spokesman Soth Phetrasy. Soth has asked an International Control Commission official in Vientiane to arrange a special flight from Hanoi, saying that the leaders of the team are in a hurry to get back for next Tuesday's session of the peace talks.





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## ARGENTINA

Efforts to negotiate an agreement between the government and Juan Peron on the designation of candidates for the elections next March remain stalled. The military has leaked word that it plans to organize a "third force" to oppose both the Peronists and the Radicals in the elections. It would be based on a coalition of provincial parties and be led by an active duty officer.

*This move appears designed mainly to put pressure on Peron to engage in serious negotiations. Although such a military-led coalition seems bound to fail in present circumstances, senior officers would at least have someone in the running by the filing deadline of 21 December if President Lanusse and Peron have still not reached an accord by then.*

*Peron remains the announced candidate of his followers' "Justicialista Front," but there are signs that the Peronists have now accepted the government's stand that the former dictator cannot run because he was not in the country by 25 August. We expect the Peronists will maintain his candidacy as long as possible, however, in an effort to hold the movement together.*





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## NOTE

India: The non-Communist press has joined in welcoming the prospect of improved relations with the United States signaled in Foreign Minister Singh's speech last week and in Secretary Rogers' response. Reaction has been slower to Singh's call for better relations with Peking, but most informed Indians think this too would be to India's advantage.





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